Common Origination and Disbursement

COD Processing Update

September 3, 2004

Direct Loan

COD News

2004 Electronic Access Conferences (09/03/04)
COD would like to invite you to register for the 2004 Electronic Access Conferences (EAC) that will be held November 1, 2004 through November 4, 2004 in Orlando, Florida, and November 30, 2004 through December 3, 2004 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The registration deadline for the Orlando EAC is October 13, 2004, and the registration deadline for the Las Vegas EAC is November 9, 2004. You can register for the EACs at http://edeworkshop.ncspearson.com/welcome.htm.

Note: Prior to the Orlando EAC, a COD Processing Training pre-conference workshop will be held on October 31, 2004. Further details regarding this workshop are available at http://edeworkshop.ncspearson.com/Orlando_conferences.htm#first/.

COD staff will be available in the PC Lab at both EACs to answer COD related questions. We also encourage you to attend COD related break out sessions to learn more about COD. Tentative COD related sessions include:

- Direct Loans: Balancing the Books for 2003-2004 and Beyond
- Direct Loans: Reconciliation, Putting the Pieces Together - A Case Study
- Show Me the Money: How to Get & Maintain Funding for Pell Grants, Campus-Based, and Direct Loans
- Navigating the COD Web Site
- COD: What's New for Direct Loan Processing 2005-2006
- COD: What's New for Pell Processing 2005-2006
- COD: Moving Beyond - Flat Files to XML Common Records
- Common Record: CommonLine (CR:C) Initiatives
- XML: An Advanced Guide
- COD Open Forum Questions and Answers
- EDExpress/COD Processing from a Direct Loan Perspective
- EDExpress/COD Processing from a Pell Perspective

Further details regarding other sessions and general information about the EACs are available at http://edeworkshop.ncspearson.com/welcome.htm.

Updated COD Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Available (09/01/04)
COD has updated the FAQs on the COD web site, www.cod.ed.gov/. The FAQs are available on the COD web site by clicking the "Today's Update" link at the bottom of the page. The Updated

FAQs are also available on the IFAP web site at
http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0512FAQCOD.html/. If you have any questions about the
document, or would like to see anything added, please contact the COD School Relations Center
at CODSupport@acs-inc.com with the subject line of "FAQ".

COD Holiday Schedule For September 6, 2004 (8/27/04)
The COD School Relations Center will be closed on Monday, September 6, 2004 in observance
of Labor Day. The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back
Acknowledgements on Monday, September 6, 2004. However, requests for changes in funding
levels and for funds will not be processed until Tuesday, September 7, 2004. Further information
regarding Labor Day processing and customer service hours for COD and other FSA/ED call
centers is available in an Electronic Announcement on the IFAP web site at
http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0827LaborDayClosing.html/.

Guidance Provided To Schools And Others Impacted By Hurricane Charley (08/27/04)
FSA has posted guidance to schools and others impacted by Hurricane Charley on the IFAP web
site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0825HurricaneCharley.html/. The announcement
is a reminder that various waivers and flexibilities are available to lessen the impact of the storm
on the administration of the Title IV student assistance programs.

**All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year
[08/02/04 (Updated 08/09/04)]**
As a reminder, *all* schools must be Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year.
This means that *all* schools must be able to submit 2005-2006 Pell and/or Direct Loan origination
and disbursement data to the COD System using the COD Common Record in XML format.

Note: FSA recently informed schools in GEN-04-06 that the implementation of the Common
Record: ISIR will not be implemented for the 2005-2006 Award Year. The adjustment of the
Common Record: ISIR implementation schedule *does not* affect the requirement that *all* schools
must be COD Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year.

Current Phase-In Participants can refer to the following sections of the 2004-2005 COD
Technical Reference (http://www.ifap.ed.gov/cod/0405CODTechRefDraft.html/) for information
that may be helpful in determining their Full Participant solution:
* Volume I, Section 3 provides information about XML.
* Volume II, Section 1 and Volume V, Section 1 provide information about FSA's
  EDExpress software that can be used to submit data to the COD System.

Updated information about Full Participant sign up for the 2005-2006 Award Year is posted on
the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0806CODFullParticReq0506.html/.

Reports and Data Requests

ISSUES

Except as listed below, all Direct Loan reports and data requests are available as specified in
Volume VIII, Section 8 of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference posted on the IFAP web site

COD Processing Update

at www.IFAP.ed.gov/. There are issues with the following Direct Loan reports and/or data requests:

•	Direct Loan Rebuild File—	Cannot be requested on the COD web site and is not being produced. COD is researching several issues related to incorrect data in the file. (08/25/04)
•	Duplicate Student Borrower Report—	For 2002-2003 and forward, is not being pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes and is not available on the COD web site. (08/25/04)

Resolved Issues

Described below are "Current Issues" that have been resolved. A full description of each issue will remain in this section for 7 calendar days following the "Updated" date. If a clean up is required, the title of the issue will then be moved to "Resolved Issues In Clean Up."

For the full description of a resolved issue after it is removed from this section, refer to previous postings of the COD Processing Update on the IFAP web site, www.IFAP.ed.gov/. The COD Processing Update is posted to the IFAP web site each Friday.

COD Edit 116 Not Working Correctly [01/06/04 (Updated 09/03/04)]
Previously, COD Edit 116 (SSN, Date of Birth and/or Last Name have not been updated in the COD System) was not working properly. This edit is a warning that is returned when changes to the Student Identifier information are submitted and the reported CPS Transaction Number and Award Year combination is not greater than the combination that currently exists in COD.
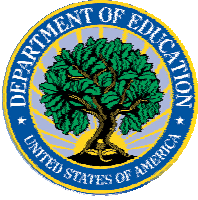
Because this edit was not working correctly schools were unable to submit new 2003-2004 originations or make online changes when previous award year information was different for a student in COD. On August 10, 2004, COD implemented a code fix to prevent this issue going forward. COD is now cleaning up the affected records.

In the meantime, please be patient and do not resubmit your records that previously rejected for COD Edit 116 until you are notified to do so. If you submit these records before the clean up is completed, it is possible that they will reject for Edit 12 (No Eligible SSN, and DOB Combination Match Found on CPS For Student). An available option for processing these records is via the COD web site.

Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site And/Or SAS [12/11/03 (Updated 09/01/04)]
COD identified the following issues that resulted in accepted disbursements/adjustments being processed in COD but not appearing on certain COD web site screens:

1. In some instances, disbursements/adjustments were not appearing on the Disbursement List screen. However, the accepted disbursements were appearing on the Batch screen and being acknowledged correctly to schools. Also, in some cases, sequence numbers for the disbursements were not appearing on the Disbursement History Information screen.

COD Processing Update

Several code fixes have been migrated to prevent this problem going forward. COD is now cleaning up the affected records. In the meantime, please do not resubmit the disbursements/adjustments for processing as these transactions have already been acknowledged.

2. In some instances, disbursements/adjustments were not appearing on the Disbursement History Information screen. As a result, the disbursements/adjustments were not reflected on the school's SAS. However, the disbursements were appearing on the Batch screen and being acknowledged correctly to schools.

   COD has implemented a code fix to resolve this issue going forward and is now cleaning up the affected records. In the meantime, please do not resubmit the disbursements/adjustments for processing as these transactions have already been acknowledged.

Direct Loan School Account Statement (SAS) Data Issues [02/03/04 (Updated 09/01/04)]
Previously, COD notified schools of the following issues that affected the SAS report for some schools:

1. In the past, several schools reported that disbursements were appearing multiple times on the SAS report under the same sequence number. On May 11, 2004, COD migrated a code fix that resolved this issue going forward. COD is now cleaning up the affected transactions.

2. In some cases, the booked date was not listed for a disbursement when the loan booked date was populated. This resulted in disbursement transactions appearing as unbooked when they were really booked.

   The COD 3.0 release included a code change that corrected this issue for 2002-2003 SAS reports. However, subsequent analysis showed that this issue was affecting SAS reports for the 2003-2004 Award Year. COD implemented a code fix to resolve this issue going forward and is now cleaning up the affected transactions.

Changes To Award And Disbursement Amounts Not Processed Correctly [11/05/03 (Updated 09/01/04)]
Previously, when schools attempted to reduce/zero an award with a pended or actual disbursement, the disbursements still showed an amount in COD after the award amounts were reduced. This caused the pending disbursements to appear on the school's pended disbursement list. Additionally, schools may have received a reject for COD Edits 041 (Changed Award Amount is Less Than Total Disbursements) and 067 (Incorrect Disbursement Amount).

COD implemented a code fix in early January 2004 to allow award and disbursement changes to be processed correctly. However, after further research, it was determined that the code fix was not working correctly. As a result, a new code fix was implemented, and COD is now cleaning up the affected records.

COD Processing Update

Current Issues

Direct Loan School Account Statement (SAS) Delay (09/03/04)
The SAS Report is normally generated on the first Saturday of each month and pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes the following Monday. However, the August month-end report will be delayed a few days for a quality control review prior to its release. COD apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

COD Not Generating Credit Decision Override Response For The 2004-2005 Award Year (09/03/04)
COD generates a Credit Decision Override response when a PLUS borrower's endorser or appeal of a credit decision has been approved. Additionally, COD generates correspondence to the PLUS borrower and the endorser, if applicable. Recently, some schools have not received a Credit Decision Override response for 2004-2005 Award Year PLUS awards when the PLUS borrower's endorser has been approved. It also appears that COD is not generating the correspondence related to these overrides to the affected parents and endorsers.

COD is researching this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available. If you discover that you have not received a Credit Decision Override response, contact the COD School Relations Center to report their information. In the meantime, you can view the status of credit decision overrides and credit decision results for endorsers via the COD web site.

Some Null Tags Submitted Via Batch Not Updated In COD (09/01/04)
A null tag containing a *nil="true"* attribute can be submitted for some data elements in a Common Record document to remove or delete content currently on file in the COD database. Recently, COD determined that some null tags are being accepted by the COD System, but are not appropriately updating the COD database. This means that if a school submits a null tag for some data elements, the COD System is ignoring it and the content on the COD database for that data element is not being removed.
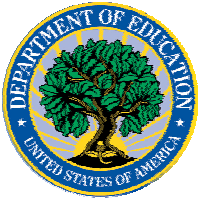
On August 10, 2004, COD implemented a code fix to allow a null tag submitted for the Verification Status Code data element to update the COD database correctly. COD continues research to ensure that all applicable data elements reported with a null tag will update the COD database correctly. Note that not all data elements can be submitted with null tags; refer to the COD Technical Reference, Volume II, Section 3 for the applicable data elements.

COD will provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, schools needing to remove or delete content in COD for a specific data element may do so via the COD web site.

Rejected Records Not Viewable On The COD Web Site [07/30/04 (Updated 08/26/04)]
Some schools are receiving an error message when attempting to view rejected records on the COD web site's Batch Detail Information screen. Clicking on the Rejected link in the Award No. column causes the following error message to display: "An unexpected error has occurred. Please contact your administrator if the problem persists."

On August 10, 2004, COD partially corrected this problem by migrating a code fix to correct the affected Phase-In records. Next, the code fix will be migrated to correct the affected Common

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Records. COD will provide more information about the code fix for Common Records as soon as it becomes available.

MPN Search Limitation on the COD Web Site (3/17/04 (Updated 8/20/04)]
This item was previously reported under "COD Issues From 2004-2005 System Implementation."

When performing an MPN Search using only the last name, not all of the results display on the web screen. Until this issue is resolved, users are encouraged to perform an MPN search using both the first and last names. COD continues to develop the code fix for this issue and will provide further details once more information becomes available.

Phase-In Records Incorrectly Rejecting For COD Edit 056 (08/12/04)
COD has discovered that some Phase-In 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 records are incorrectly rejecting for COD Edit 056 (Sequence Number Not In Sequential Order). This edit is being returned incorrectly to Phase-In schools that submit changes to anticipated disbursement amounts.

Additionally, when a change to the anticipated disbursement amount is submitted along with a reduced award amount, COD is only accepting the reduced award amount. As a result, COD Edit 846 (Total 'Anticipated Gross Amount' must be less than or equal to the Loan Amount Approved) is returned because the award amount is less than the total anticipated disbursements.

COD is researching the cause of this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Duplicate Disbursement Information In COD [05/06/04 (Updated 07/30/04)]
COD has learned that duplicate disbursement numbers are displaying incorrectly on the COD web site's Award Disbursements Information screen. On this screen under the Disbursement Number column, disbursement numbers are appearing twice. However, when viewing the Disbursement Information screen, each disbursement displays a different status (Pending or Disbursed).

COD has made significant progress in analyzing the issue and anticipates a resolution in September 2004. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Student Name And Date Of Birth Not Updated In COD [05/03/04 (Updated 06/30/04)]
COD notified schools of an issue where new 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 origination records are accepted in COD; however, the student's Name and Date of Birth (DOB) updates submitted by the school are not displaying on the COD web site's Person Information screen. The COD web site is reflecting the Name and DOB from the previous award year. Additionally, in some cases, changes to Name and DOB for previously accepted origination records are not displaying on the Person Information screen as well.

COD continues to research the cause of this issue and appreciates your patience. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

COD Cash Activity Screen Inaccurate [02/19/04 (Updated 06/08/04)]
Previously, COD identified an issue where the COD web site's Cash Activity screen was not always displaying every drawdown that was reflected in the GAPS Activity Report. COD

notified schools that this issue was resolved on April 5, 2004. However, after further research, it was determined that this issue is not resolved for all schools. COD continues to work on resolving this issue for the remaining schools affected and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Additionally, COD previously discovered that other cash activities, such as Refunds of Cash and Disbursement Adjustments, were not displaying on the Cash Activity screen. The COD development team is working on multiple cleanups that will allow the Refunds of Cash and Disbursement Adjustments to display on the Cash Activity screen. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Mixed Person Records In COD [03/02/04 (Updated 05/20/04)]
As you are aware, the COD System is based on the establishment of a person record and contains person records established as early as 1999-2000. COD has discovered that primarily due to inaccurate SSNs that have entered the COD System, approximately 300 records (out of approximately 14 million person records in the COD System) have mixed with other COD records. Since PLUS borrowers are not matched with CPS, the majority of the people affected by this issue are PLUS borrowers. COD has a dedicated team working to resolve the small number of records that have been mixed. COD would like to assure you that if your data has been affected by this rare problem it is not lost in the COD System and it will be corrected.

Specifically, COD has identified two scenarios related to this issue. In the first scenario, one person appears twice within the COD System, with different awards under each profile. In the second scenario, two persons have the same SSN in the COD System with mixed profiles and awards. These problems usually occur when incorrect SSNs are submitted to COD and are compounded when the incorrect SSN matches another person's correct SSN.

COD continues to work on further detailed instructions that will assist you in avoiding these scenarios and, if necessary, in correcting them. If you have any questions, please contact the COD School Relations Center.
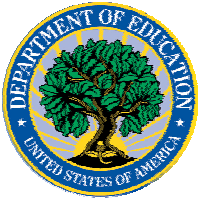
MPN Status Inaccurate On COD Web Site [10/30/03 (Updated 05/17/04)]
For the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 Award Years, the COD web site is displaying an MPN Status of Active for MPNs that have expired when it should display as Inactive. Currently, COD believes this is only a display issue and does not impact data processing. Resources have focused on more critical issues. COD appreciates your patience and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Direct Loan Servicing And COD System Interface Issues (03/25/04)
COD transmits a daily file to the Direct Loan Servicing System (DLSS) updating DLSS with Direct Loan booking information. Sometimes, not all of the information is processed correctly due to systematic rejects and interface issues between the systems. When this occurs, COD reviews the rejects and processes them accordingly. Additionally, COD implements code fixes and cleanups of incorrect data when necessary.

In some cases, the processing of rejected records and the related code fixes can take several weeks to complete. COD understands that it causes confusion when data does not match between the systems and works to resolve any discrepancies as quickly as possible.

Pell Grants

COD News

2003-2004 Pell Grant Processing Deadline Is September 30, 2004 (09/03/04)
The deadline for electronically transmitting Pell Grant records for the 2003-2004 Award Year to COD is **Thursday, September 30, 2004**. To meet this deadline, your school's transmissions must be completed by midnight (in your local time zone) on September 30, 2004. For additional information about the deadline, refer to the announcement posted on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0902PellProcDeadline0304.html/.

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COD Processing Update

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As a reminder, *all* schools must be Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year. This means that *all* schools must be able to submit 2005-2006 Pell and/or Direct Loan origination and disbursement data to the COD System using the COD Common Record in XML format.

Note: FSA recently informed schools in GEN-04-06 that the implementation of the Common Record: ISIR will not be implemented for the 2005-2006 Award Year. The adjustment of the Common Record: ISIR implementation schedule *does not* affect the requirement that *all* schools must be COD Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year.

Current Phase-In Participants can refer to the following sections of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference (http://www.ifap.ed.gov/cod/0405CODTechRefDraft.html/) for information that may be helpful in determining their Full Participant solution:
- Volume I, Section 3 provides information about XML.
- Volume II, Section 1 and Volume V, Section 1 provide information about FSA's EDExpress software that can be used to submit data to the COD System.

Updated information about Full Participant sign up for the 2005-2006 Award Year is posted on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0806CODFullParticReq0506.html/.

COD Processing Update

Reports and Data Requests

ISSUES

Except as listed below, all Pell Grant reports and data requests are available as specified in Volume VIII, Section 8 of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference posted on the IFAP web site at www.IFAP.ed.gov/. There are issues with the following Pell Grant reports and/or data requests:

- Pell POP Report—   For 2004-2005, is not available on the COD web site. COD is evaluating the functionality to push the report to schools' COD newsboxes. Report is being pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes (Message Class PGPR05OP). (08/25/04)

- Verification Status Report—   For 2004-2005, is not being pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes and is not available on the COD web site. COD is evaluating all functionality. (08/25/04)

Resolved Issues

Described below are "Current Issues" that have been resolved. A full description of each issue will remain in this section for 7 calendar days following the "Updated" date. If a clean up is required, the title of the issue will then be moved to "Resolved Issues In Clean Up."

For the full description of a resolved issue after it is removed from this section, refer to previous postings of the COD Processing Update on the IFAP web site, www.IFAP.ed.gov/. The COD Processing Update is posted to the IFAP web site each Friday.

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Previously, COD Edit 116 (SSN, Date of Birth and/or Last Name have not been updated in the COD System) was not working properly. This edit is a warning that is returned when changes to the Student Identifier information are submitted and the reported CPS Transaction Number and Award Year combination is not greater than the combination that currently exists in COD.

Because this edit was not working correctly schools were unable to submit new 2003-2004 originations or make online changes when previous award year information was different for a student in COD. On August 10, 2004, COD implemented a code fix to prevent this issue going forward. COD is now cleaning up the affected records.

In the meantime, please be patient and do not resubmit your records that previously rejected for COD Edit 116 until you are notified to do so. If you submit these records before the clean up is completed, it is possible that they will reject for Edit 12 (No Eligible SSN, Name, DOB, and Last Name Combination Match Found on CPS For Student). An available option for processing these records is via the COD web site.

Common Origination and Disbursement

COD Processing Update

Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site [12/11/03 (Updated 09/01/04)]
COD identified an issue that resulted in disbursements/adjustments being processed in COD but not appearing on the Disbursement List screen. However, the accepted disbursements were appearing on the Batch screen and being acknowledged correctly to schools. Also in some cases, sequence numbers for the disbursements were not appearing on the Disbursement History Information screen.

Several code fixes have been migrated to prevent this problem going forward. COD is now cleaning up the affected records. In the meantime, please do not resubmit the disbursements/adjustments for processing as these transactions have already been acknowledged.

Current Issues

Some Null Tags Submitted Via Batch Not Updated In COD (08/31/04)
A null tag containing a *nil="true"* attribute can be submitted for some data elements in a Common Record document to remove or delete content currently on file in the COD database. Recently, COD determined that some null tags are being accepted by the COD System, but are not appropriately updating the COD database. This means that if a school submits a null tag for some data elements, the COD System is ignoring it and the content on the COD database for that data element is not being removed. For example, a *nil ="true"* attribute submitted for the Low Tuition and Fees Code data element will not update the COD database to blank.

On August 10, 2004, COD implemented a code fix to allow a null tag submitted for the Verification Status Code data element to update the COD database correctly. COD continues research to ensure that all applicable data elements reported with a null tag will update the COD database correctly. Note that not all data elements can be submitted with null tags; refer to the COD Technical Reference, Volume II, Section 3 for the applicable data elements.

COD will provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, schools needing to remove or delete content in COD for a specific data element may do so via the COD web site.

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On August 10, 2004, COD partially corrected this problem by migrating a code fix to correct the affected Phase-In records. Next, the code fix will be migrated to correct the affected Common Records. COD will provide more information about the code fix for Common Records as soon as it becomes available.

Duplicate Disbursement Information In COD [05/06/04 (Updated 07/30/04)]
COD has learned that duplicate disbursement numbers are displaying incorrectly on the COD web site's Award Disbursements Information screen. On this screen under the Disbursement

COD Processing Update

Number column, disbursement numbers are appearing twice. However, when viewing the Disbursement Information screen, each disbursement displays a different status (Pending or Disbursed).

COD has made significant progress in analyzing the issue and anticipates a resolution in September 2004. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Student Name And Date Of Birth Not Updated In COD [05/03/04 (Updated 06/30/04)]
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COD continues to research the cause of this issue and appreciates your patience. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Mixed Person Records In COD [03/02/04 (Updated 05/20/04)]
As you are aware, the COD System is based on the establishment of a person record and contains person records established as early as 1999-2000. COD has discovered that primarily due to inaccurate SSNs that have entered the COD System, approximately 300 records (out of approximately 14 million person records in the COD System) have mixed with other COD records. Since PLUS borrowers are not matched with CPS, the majority of the people affected by this issue are PLUS borrowers. COD has a dedicated team working to resolve the small number of records that have been mixed. COD would like to assure you that if your data has been affected by this rare problem it is not lost in the COD System and it will be corrected.

Specifically, COD has identified two scenarios related to this issue. In the first scenario, one person appears twice within the COD System, with different awards under each profile. In the second scenario, two persons have the same SSN in the COD System with mixed profiles and awards. These problems usually occur when incorrect SSNs are submitted to COD and are compounded when the incorrect SSN matches another person's correct SSN.

COD continues to work on further detailed instructions that will assist you in avoiding these scenarios and, if necessary, in correcting them. If you have any questions, please contact the COD School Relations Center.